

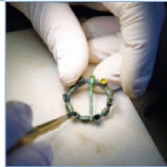
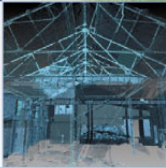
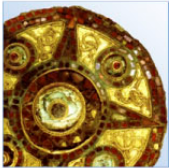
Redden Court School, Cotswold Road, Harold Wood, Romford

An Archaeological Evaluation Report

Planning Application No P2242.07

AOC project no 30039

March 2008



ARCHAEOLOGY

| HERITAGE

| CONSERVATION

Redden Court School, Cotswold Road, Harold Wood, Romford

An Archaeological Evaluation Report

On Behalf of:	Mouchel Parkman 23 – 29 Albion Place Maidstone Kent ME14 5TS
National Grid Reference (NGR):	TQ 5472 8987
AOC Project No:	30039
Prepared by:	Ian Hogg
Illustration by:	Jon Moller
Date of Excavation:	11 th – 15 th February 2008
Date of Report:	26 th March 2008

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Draft/Final Report Stage:	Date:

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Non-Technical Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group between 11th and 15th February 2008 at Redden Court School, Cotswold Road, Harold Wood, Romford on behalf of Mouchel Parkman Services. Four trenches were excavated by machine measuring 20m x 2m in size.

Natural clay was observed at a depth between 39.43m and 37.89mOD across the site. Three of the four trenches contained no archaeological remains while the fourth contained three 19th/20th century walls and a 19th/20th century pit. These walls are probably a late part of Old Redden Court Manor in the period immediately before its demolition in the early 20th century.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location

- 1.1.1 The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 5472 8987, and is within land bounded by Coombe Road to the south and residential properties on all other sides. The entrance to the site is via Cotswold Road.
- 1.1.2 The site is square in shape (Figure 2). The entire school site covers a total area of approximately 3.6 hectares. The area affected by the development covers a total area of approximately 1.7 hectares.

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The British Geological Survey map 1:50 000 (BGS Sheet 257) indicates that the site is situated upon London Clay.
- 1.2.2 Geotechnical investigations were conducted on site by Site Analytical Services Ltd (2006). The investigation recorded the presence of London Clay overlaid by 0.10 – 1.20m thick deposits of made ground.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 The local planning authority is London Borough of Havering. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by David Divers of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS).
- 1.3.2 Planning permission to undertake the development has been granted under the Town & Country Planning Act (1990) (Ref No.: P2242.07), subject to conditions. Condition 7 states that:

“No development shall take place until the applicant, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority”.

Reason: Important archaeological remains may exist on this site.

This condition has been required in accordance with *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16) issued by the Department of the Environment in 1990 (DoE, 1990), and was recommended by David Divers (GLAAS).

- 1.3.4 This document reports on the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken to identify any archaeological remains that might be threatened by the proposed development.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There are a number of entries in the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record (GLSMR) for archaeological features or chance finds within 1km of the site.
- 2.2 No previous archaeological investigations have been undertaken on the site itself.

2.3 Prehistoric

- 2.3.1 The earliest archaeological evidence in this area are some fragments of palaeolithic hand axes from Launder Lane in Rainham. This site also contained Mesolithic microliths and a Neolithic ritual enclosure. Bronze Age features were also noted.
- 2.3.2 Mesolithic microliths, as well as a Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age enclosure were discovered in excavations at Marks Warren Farm 6 km east of the site. A Bronze Age metalwork hoard was also found nearby.

2.4 Roman (c. AD 43 - 450)

- 2.4.1 The site is located 2 km east of the Roman London to Brighton Road, which may have had small settlements running alongside it. The Antonine Itinerary mentions a place called Durolitum in the area of Harold Wood or Gidea Park, Romford. This may simply be a roadside station for travellers or a military barracks rather than a full scale settlement. No evidence of this settlement has yet been found.

2.5 Anglo-Saxon (c.AD 451 – 1065)

- 2.5.1 Very little evidence for Anglo Saxon activity is noted in Romford. Nearby at Gerpins, Rainham, a rich Anglo Saxon cemetery was discovered in 1937 during gravel extractions.

2.6 Medieval (c. AD 1066 – 1485)

- 2.6.1 Romford became a market town in 1247. The site of the market was later moved to higher ground away from the River Rom, to its present position southwest of site. This market became one of the largest in Essex throughout the medieval period.

- 2.6.2 The town seems to have prospered due partly to its proximity to the Royal Palace at Havering which provided wealth and commerce for the surrounding area.
- 2.6.3 The main industry in medieval Romford seems to have been leather working, which spread from nearby Hornchurch; most of the trade came along the old Roman Road which was still one of the major routes in and out of London and the Eastern Counties.
- 2.6.4 The site itself originated as a tenement held by William the Fleming in 1212, who was the serjeanty of finding reads for the king's chamber at Havering. This is probably where the name reddens originates.
- 2.6.5 In 1235 the tenement passed to William of Havering, and remained in his family until 1380 when it was sold to Sir John Newenton. In 1413 the site became known as the Manor of Reden.

2.7 Post-Medieval (1486 – modern)

- 2.7.1 After becoming part of Gidea hall in 1469 the Manor was bought and sold numerous times. In 1857 it comprised of two farms, Old Reddens Court and New Reddens Court. During the inter-war period both of these farms were sold and developed for building.
- 2.7.2 The manor house itself is on the site of Redden Court School. It is possibly mentioned in the 1662 list for the Harold Wood ward. By 1777 the manor house was known as Readnalls, the name Redden court having transferred to a smaller, 17th to 18th century building on the north side of Squirrels Heath Road.
- 2.7.3 By the 19th Century the manor house was known as Old Redden Court and the smaller building New Redden Court (Ordinance Survey, 1881), these names appear to have swapped between 1881 and 1896 according to the ordinance survey maps for those years for an unknown reason (Ordinance survey 1896). After the associated farms were sold off and developed Old Redden Court House was demolished in 1954 with New Redden Court house making way for the current school in 1939.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The general aims of the investigation are:

- The evaluation will seek to establish the nature and extent of any archaeological remains by characterising the date, nature and significance of such archaeological structures, features and deposits as may be found, and the artefacts and ecofacts which may be contained within or associated with them, along with the impact which development will have upon them.
- The evaluation will enable an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains and consider any appropriate mitigatory measures either in advance of and/or during development.
- To enable David Divers (GLAAS) to make an informed decision on the status of the planning condition, and any possible requirement for further work to satisfy that condition.

3.2 The specific objectives of the Evaluation are:

- Establish whether any evidence of Readnalls medieval manor house survives on site.
- Establish whether any evidence of Owletts Hall survives on site.
- Establish whether any evidence of the 19th century Old Redden Court survives on site.
- Determine the presence of any medieval or post-medieval activity on site.

3.3 The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The field Evaluation comprised of the excavation of 4 n° 20m x 2.0m trenches, with selected hand excavation of archaeological features where present. Due to a lack of space Trenches 1 and 3 were not excavated to the specified size. Trenches 2 and 4 were extended to make up for this. The integrity of any archaeological features or deposits which might better be excavated in conditions pertaining to full excavation, or might warrant preservation in situ, was not compromised.

4.2 The trial trenches were situated as shown in Figure 2. For practical reasons some trenches had to be moved. David Divers (GLAAS) was consulted prior to altering the trench locations.

4.3 The evaluation took 5 days with a team comprising a Project Supervisor and Archaeological Assistant, under the overall direction of Andy Leonard, Project Manager.

4.4 The entire site was visually inspected before the commencement of any machine excavation. This included the examination of any available exposures (e.g. recently cut ditches and geotechnical test pits). The area was CAT scanned prior to excavation.

- 4.5 All machining was carried out by a JCB 3CX, under the constant supervision of the Archaeological Project Supervisor. A 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket was, Undifferentiated topsoil or overburden of recent origin was removed in successive level spits down to the first significant archaeological horizon, or the natural geology, whichever was encountered first.
- 4.6 Most of the trenches did not exceed 1.2m in depth. However, where they did they were stepped for safety reasons.
- 4.7 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2008).

5 RESULTS

5.1 Trench 1 (Figure 4)

39.71 to 39.49m OD	(1/001) Loose dark greyish brown, clayish silt topsoil
39.49 to 39.32m OD	(1/002) Mid brownish grey clay subsoil.
39.32 to 39.05m OD	(1/003) Pale brownish yellow clay made layer
39.05 to 38.95m OD	(1/006) Dark grey demolition layer
38.95 to 38.80m OD	(1/004) Mid brownish grey clay made layer
38.80m OD- NFE	(1/005) Mid yellowish brown clay natural

Comment [a1]: Figure number would be a good idea

5.1.1 Natural London clay (1/005) was observed at 38.80mOD. It was overlain by a layer of made ground (1/004) which was 0.15m thick. Cutting through this layer were three modern walls (1/008), (1/011) and (1/018) and a pit [1/016]. The foundation cut of wall (1/008), [1/009], was 0.70m wide and 0.04m deep. It extended 0.50m westward from the baulk before terminating. Into this cut a concrete foundation (1/013) had been placed, this was 0.50m long, 0.45m wide and 0.20m deep. Filling the foundation cut was sandy fill with frequent mortar inclusions (1/007) which was 0.60m wide and 0.20m deep. Overlying the concrete footings (1/013) was a course of bricks (1/008). The bricks themselves were 220mm x 100mm x 60mm in size and are set in a possible stretcher bond pattern. However the lack of surviving bricks makes this hard to determine.

5.1.2 Abutting the concrete footing (1/013) and associated with it was a large post hole (1/016). This was subcircular and measured 1.00m long, 0.80m wide and 0.40m deep. It contained a single fill (1/015), this was a heavy clay and contained 20th century pottery. The construction for wall (1/011) was exactly the same as (1/008) with a foundation cut [1/012] 0.5m long, 0.5m wide and 0.2m deep. Again it contained concrete footings (1/014) which were also 0.50m long, 0.45m wide and 0.20m deep. Filling the foundation cut was (1/010) a silty sand fill with frequent mortar inclusions. Again set on the concrete footings was a single course of bricks (1/011). These were the same as (1/008) and appear to be set in a stretcher bond pattern.

Comment [a2]: Nature of fill? Associated with concrete footing?

5.1.3 Abutting wall (1/011) was another wall (1/018) which was on the same alignment. The foundation trench [1/019] for this wall was 1.20m long and 0.25m wide. It was only revealed in plan and so the depth cannot be ascertained. The brick wall (1/018) was 0.22m wide and 1.20m long. The bricks

were frogged, measured 210mm x 120mm x 70mm and were set in a header pattern. The foundation trench was filled with loose yellowish grey sand (1/017) which was 0.25m wide and 1.20m long.

- 5.1.4 Overlying walls (1/011) and (1/018) was a dark grey demolition layer (1/006) which contained burnt material and rubble. It was 1.60m long, 0.80m wide and 0.10m thick and was probably This layer contained a lot of burnt material and rubble and was from a phase of demolition after the structure had fallen into disuse. Overlying this layer was a made ground layer (1/003) which was pale brown clay and was 0.27m thick. Sealing this was a mid brown clay subsoil (1/002) and loose dark grey topsoil (1/001). These were 0.17m and 0.22m thick respectively.

5.2 Trench 2 (Figure 5)

39.20m to 38.62m OD	(2/001) Loose dark greyish brown, clayish silt topsoil
38.62 to 38.41m OD	(2/002) Orangey brown clay made layer
38.41 to 37.86m OD	(2/003) Mid brown heavy clay, made soil.
37.86m OD- NFE	(2/004) Mid greyish brown heavy clay natural

- 5.2.1 The natural London clay (2/004) was observed at 37.86mOD. Sealing this was a 0.65m thick layer of made ground (2/003). This was overlain by another made soil 0.21m thick (2/002). Sealing this was the topsoil which was 0.59m thick (2/001).

- 5.2.2 No archaeological features were observed in this trench.

5.3 Trench 3 (Figure 6)

40.50 to 39.98m OD	(3/001) Loose dark greyish brown, clayish silt topsoil
39.98 to 39.60m OD	(3/002) Orangey brown clay made layer
39.60 to 38.76m OD	(3/003) Mid brown heavy clay, made soil
38.76 m OD- NFE	(3/004) Mid greyish brown heavy clay natural

- 5.3.1 The natural London clay was identified at a depth of 38.76mOD. It was sealed by a layer of made ground (3/003) 0.84m thick. Overlying this was a second made layer (3/002) 0.38m thick, in turn sealed by the topsoil (3/001) 0.52m thick.

- 5.3.2 No archaeological features were identified in this trench.

5.4 Trench 4 (Figure 6)

41.71 to 41.19m OD	(4/001) Loose dark greyish brown, clayish silt topsoil
41.19 to 40.91m OD	(4/002) Orangey brown clay made layer
40.91 to 40.53m OD	(4/003) Mid brown heavy clay, made soil
40.53m OD- NFE	(4/004) Mid greyish brown heavy clay natural

- 5.4.1 The natural London clay (4/004) was observed at 40.53mOD. Overlying this was a clay made layer (4/003) 0.38m thick. Sealing this was a second made layer (4/002) 0.28m thick. Overlying this was the topsoil (4/001) 0.52m thick.

6 FINDS

- 6.1 The only finds were from post hole fill (1/015) these included modern pottery, and animal bone possibly from a cow.
- 6.2 A brick sample was taken from wall (1/018). These bricks are frogged, mass produced and are most likely to be late 19th/early 20th century. Despite other walls being on site the bricks were set too firmly to remove for a sample.

7 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The only archaeological features identified on site were the walls, posthole and pit in Trench 1. The walls were associated, the two more substantial walls (1/008) and (1/011) being earlier with the later extension of wall (1/018). Post hole (1/016) was almost certainly associated with wall (1/008) which it abuts. It may have contained some form of post or concrete footing for the structure.
- 7.2 Judging by the size of the wall foundations the structure would have been fairly sizable. The 1881 Ordinance survey map of the area shows Old Redden Court and its associated buildings to be very close to these walls (Ordinance Survey, 1881). While there is no evidence of the manor house itself, these could be the walls of an associated building.
- 7.3 No other archaeological activity was observed on the site. The evaluation demonstrated that a later part of New Reddens Court possibly survives in the north of the site. No evidence of Owletts Hall or Readnalls medieval manor was observed on the site.
- 7.4 Publication of this report will be in the form of an ADS OASIS form (Appendix 2) and a short summary in the London Archaeologist roundup.

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Appendices

Appendix A

Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth	Plan No.	Section No.
1/001	Topsoil	17.00m	1.60m	0.22m	1	1
1/002	Made layer	17.00m	1.60m	0.15m	1	1
1/003	Made layer	17.00m	1.60m	0.25m	1	1
1/004	Made layer	17.00m	1.60m	0.15m	1	1
1/005	Natural	17.00m	1.60m	NFE	1	1
1/006	Deolition layer	0.80m	1.60m	0.10m	1	
1/007	Fill of foundation trench	0.70m	0.60m	0.20m	1	6
1/008	Brick wall	0.40m	0.22m	0.08m	1	6
1/009	Cut of foundation trench	0.60m	0.40m	0.20m	1	6
1/010	Fill of foundation trench	0.50m	0.50m	0.20m	1	
1/011	Brick wall	0.40m	0.22m	0.08m	1	
1/012	Cut of foundation trench	0.50m	0.50m	0.20m	1	
1/013	Concrete wall footings	0.50m	0.45m	0.20m	1	
1/014	Concrete wall footings	0.50m	0.45m	0.20m	1	6
1/015	Pit fill	1.00m	0.60m	0.35m	1	5
1/016	Pit cut	1.00m	0.60m	0.35m	1	5
1/017	Fill of foundation trench	1.25m	0.25m	NFE	1	
1/018	Brick wall	1.25m	0.22m	NFE	1	
1/019	Cut of foundation trench	1.25m	0.25m	NFE	1	
2/001	Topsoil	25.00m	2.00m	0.60m	2	2
2/002	Made layer	25.00m	2.00m	0.30m	2	2
2/003	Made layer	25.00m	2.00m	0.60m	2	2
2/004	Natural	25.00m	2.00m	NFE	2	2

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth	Plan No.	Section No.
3/001	Topsoil	14.00m	2.00m	40.00m	3	3
3/002	Made layer	14.00m	2.00m	40.00m	3	3
3/003	Made layer	14.00m	2.00m	85.00m	3	3
3/004	Natural	14.00m	2.00m	NFE	3	3
4/001	Topsoil	25.00m	2.00m	0.50m	4	4
4/002	Made layer	25.00m	2.00m	0.25m	4	4
4/003	Made layer	25.00m	2.00m	0.40m	4	4
4/004	Natural	25.00m	2.00m	NFE	4	4

Appendix B

OASIS Data Collected Form

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Printable version

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-39527

Project details

Project name Redden Court School, Romford

Short description of the project An evaluation was carried out at the school. Only one of the trenches contained features. These included 3 modern walls and a modern pit. These features appear to all be associated with one another and may represent a late stage in the activity of Old Redden Court.

Project dates Start: 11-02-2008 End: 15-02-2008

Previous/future work No / No

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Community Service 1 - Community Buildings

Monument type WALLS Modern

Monument type PIT Modern

Methods & 'Sample Trenches' techniques

Development type Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the After full determination (eg. As a condition)
planning process

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER LONDON HAVERING ROMFORD Redden Court School, Cotswold Road, Romford

Postcode RM3 0TS

Study area 3.60 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 5472 8987 51.5859114001 0.233532109774 51 35 09 N 000 14 00 E Point

Height OD Min: 37.86m Max: 40.53m

Project creators

Name of AOC Archaeology
Organisation

Project brief AOC Archaeology
originator

Project design EH-GLAAS
originator

Project Andy Leonard
director/manager

Project supervisor Ian Hogg

Type of Mouchel Parkman Services
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive Museum of London
recipient

Physical Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics'

Digital Archive Museum of London
recipient

Digital Contents 'Ceramics','Stratigraphic'

Digital Media 'Images raster / digital photography'
available

Paper Archive Museum of London
recipient

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'

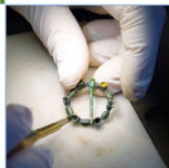
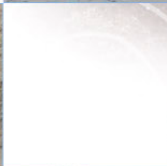
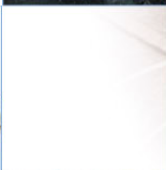
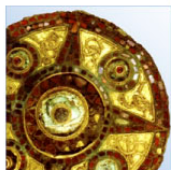
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